<u>REMARKS</u>

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated August 2, 2007. Claims 1 to 5 and 11 to 24 are pending in the application, of which Claims 1, 11, 16 and 21 to 24 are independent. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Claims 1 to 3, 5, 11 to 13, 15 and 21 to 24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 6,535,294 (Arledge, Jr.) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,089,765 (Mori). Claims 16 to 20 and 22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 6,348,972 (Taniguchi) in view of Arledge. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

<u>Claims 1, 11 and 22.</u>

Turning to specific claim language, amended independent Claim 1 is directed to a printer controller for controlling printing of print data. The controller includes a storage unit adapted to store the print data and authentication information corresponding to the print data; an input unit adapted to enable a user to input authentication information to print the print data; a collation unit adapted to collate the authentication information input by the user with the authentication information stored in the storage unit; a display unit adapted to, after the user inputs the authentication information, display a list of print data corresponding to the input authentication information; a selection unit adapted to enable the user to select at least one print data from the list of print data displayed by the display unit; a control unit adapted to control the printing of the selected print data to be performed after confirming that a print charge for printing the print data selected by the

user is paid; a check unit adapted to check whether it is a specific time specified by the user; a determination unit adapted to determine, in accordance with checking that it is the specific time specified by the user, whether each of the print data stored in the storage unit satisfies a specific condition; and a deletion unit adapted to delete the stored print data which satisfies the specific condition and not to delete the stored print data which does not satisfy the specific condition.

Therefore, an apparatus in accordance with Claim 1 includes the features of:

(1)   a printer controller displays a list of print data corresponding to authentication information input by a user, and controls printing of the print data selected from the list, and

(2)   the printer controller checks whether or not it is a specific time specified by the user, and executes determination (see (3)) according to the checked result that it is the specific time specified by the user, and

(3)   the printer controller determines whether or not each of the stored print data satisfies a specific condition (e.g., a lapse of predetermined time from print data reception time), deletes the stored print data which satisfies the specific condition, and does not delete the stored print data which does not satisfy the specific condition.

Accordingly, a user can specify the specific time for determining whether or not each stored print data satisfies a specific condition. For example, the print data satisfying the specific condition can collectively be deleted by specifying the time when the printer controller is scarcely used.

In contrast, Mori discloses that a computer stores in its storage device print data to be transferred to a printer, receives from a user setting of a delete time for each

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stored print data, and automatically deletes the print data to which the delete time has been set when it becomes the delete time. However, the computer of Mori merely deletes the print data according to the fact that it becomes a designated time, but does not determine whether each print data satisfies a specific condition, according to the fact that it becomes the designated time. Moreover, Mori does not disclose or suggest that, in the case where the print data does not satisfy the specific condition, the relevant print data is not deleted even if it becomes the designated time. Therefore, Mori fails to disclose or suggest determining, in accordance with checking that it is the specific time specified by the user, whether each of the print data stored in said storage unit satisfies a specific condition and deleting the stored print data which satisfies the specific condition and not to delete the stored print data which does not satisfy the specific condition. Accordingly, an apparatus in accordance with Claim 1 has the feature that, since the user sets the specific time, the print data satisfying the specific condition can collectively deleted during the time period when the printer controller is scarcely used.

In addition, Arledge neither discloses nor suggests that, according to a fact that it becomes a specific time, it is determined whether or not each print data satisfies a specific condition. Further, Arledge does not disclose or suggest that, even when it becomes the specific time, the print data is not deleted if it does not satisfy the specific condition.

Furthermore, Reifman fails to disclose or suggest that, according to a fact that it becomes a specific time, it is determined whether or not each print data satisfies a specific condition. Further, Reifman does not suggest that, even when it becomes the specific time, the print data is not deleted if it does not satisfy the specific condition.

Finally, Taniguchi discloses that a computer stores a print job in its memory, and transmits print data to a printer according to a print data transmission request from the printer. More specifically, Taniguchi discloses that the computer receives, from a user, setting of "job effective time" with respect to print data, and then deletes the print data from the memory after elapsing "job effective time". Namely, Taniguchi merely deletes the print data according to that the fact that it becomes the time designated by the user. However, Taniguchi fails to disclose or suggest that, according to a fact that it becomes a specific time, it is determined whether or not each print data satisfies a specific condition. Further, Taniguchi does not disclose or suggest that, even when it becomes the specific time, the print data is not deleted if it does not satisfy the specific condition.

Therefore, Applicant submits that the cited references, namely Arledge, Mori, Reifman and Taniguchi, either alone or in combination, fail to disclose or suggest all of the features of Claim 1. Specifically, the cited references fail to disclose or suggest that, according to the fact that it becomes the specific time designated by the user, it is determined whether or not each print data satisfies the specific condition, and even when it becomes the specific time, the print data is not deleted if it does not satisfy the specific condition. In light of these deficiencies of Arledge, Mori, Reifman and Taniguchi, Applicant submits that amended independent Claim 1 is now in condition for allowance and respectfully requests same.

Amended independent Claims 11 and 22 are directed to a method and a computer readable storage medium, respectively, substantially in accordance with the apparatus of Claim 1. Accordingly, Applicant submits that Claims 11 and 22 are also now in condition for allowance and respectfully requests same.

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<u>Claims 16, 21, 23 and 24.</u>

Claim 16 is directed to a data processing method for providing a print service using an information processing apparatus for storing print data and authentication information corresponding to the print data, and a printer. The method comprises a first transmission step of transmitting authentication information input by a user to print the print data from the printer to the information processing apparatus; a second transmission step of transmitting information identifying the print data corresponding to the input authentication information from the information processing apparatus to the printer; a display step of displaying, after the user inputs the authentication information, a list of print data corresponding to the input authentication information on a display panel of the printer in accordance with the information transmitted in said second transmission step; a third transmission step of transmitting at least one print data selected by the user from the list of print data displayed on the display panel from the information processing apparatus to the printer; a control step of controlling the printer to perform the printing of the print data transmitted in said third transmission step after confirming that a print charge for printing the selected print data is paid; a checking step of checking whether it is a specific time specified by the user; a determination step of determining, in accordance with checking that it is the specific time specified by the user, whether each of the print data stored by the information processing apparatus satisfies a specific condition; and a deletion step of deleting, the stored print data which satisfies the specific condition and not to delete the stored print data which does not satisfy the specific condition.

Applicant submits that the discussion from above in regard to Claims 1, 11 and 22 applies as well to Claim 16. Namely, the cited references of Arledge, Mori,

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Reifman and Taniguchi, either alone or in combination, fail to disclose or suggest all of the features of Claim 16. Specifically, the cited references fail to disclose or suggest that, according to the fact that it becomes the specific time designated by the user, it is determined whether or not each print data satisfies the specific condition, and even when it becomes the specific time, the print data is not deleted if it does not satisfy the specific condition as discussed above. In light of these deficiencies of Arledge, Mori, Reifman and Taniguchi, Applicant submits that amended independent Claim 16 is also now in condition for allowance and respectfully requests same.

Amended independent Claims 21, 23 and 24 are directed to a computer readable storage medium, an apparatus and a method, respectively, substantially in accordance with the method of Claim 16. Accordingly, Applicant submits that Claims 21, 23 and 24 are also now in condition for allowance and respectfully requests same.

CONCLUSION

No claim fees are believed due; however, should it be determined that additional claim fees are required, the Director is hereby authorized to charge such fees to Deposit Account 50-3939.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, CA office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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